He disembarked and took to the road, eventually winding up with family friends in Boston. His mother retrieved him in very bad shape, and the family wrote to Dr. Forster to take him back as quickly as possible. He replied on January 19, 1912 that he thought the best place for their son was the London Asylum, with its "many avenues for occupation." Ironically, or tragically, the file contains a letter from that institution, requesting that Mr. Cooper's case notes be transferred. The letter is signed by Dr. Stead. Dr. Forster replied, rather waspishly observing that "the patients at that time had better histories written on them than Mr. Cooper."

## Some Observations

### (The "Individual Approach" Not Personal)

At least some of the behavior recorded as evidence of insanity in the above cases, seems no worse than what might be reported of anyone subjected to intense scrutiny, and painfully aware of being scrutinized. At the same time there is often only too little self-consciousness on the part of the examiner, who seems blissfully ignorant of causing (or at least aggravating) some of the phenomena he observes. Other material is recorded as if it were delusional, even when elsewhere it is corroborated as fact. The "Record," which ought to have presented evidence, not only creates but interprets it too. Unfortunately this interpretation tends to be one-sided, selective about what constitutes information, and arbitary about evaluating it.

In other words, the "individual approach" in the name of which Clarke began to accumulate such files in the first place, seems at best only selectively and sporadically personal. The above readings suggest that the "individual approach" could not work if it was not personal, and could not be personal if it was not mutual. Easier said than done perhaps.

Mr. Robert, admitted on July 27, 1909, was described as "very fond of music," excitable, unsteady at work, impulsive, and "very" passionate -- and diagnosed as a case of "Hebephrenic Dementia Praecox." He considered himself a poet. In "Queen St. Asylum"[cxxxiv] he presents us with a version of the